

March 7, 2024

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2803 Gun Rights Preservation Act

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2803.

I am a teacher, and I am tired of losing students and students losing loved ones to gun violence, for no other reason than our lawmakers refusing to protect our citizens, prioritizing money over safety. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children, and yet, we continue to let our children die. Furthermore, I have lost a beloved uncle to gun violence. We have to protect our children and our citizens. We have to protect the health and safety of our community. We must change our gun laws to make this happen. There is no reason that children, a family, or a group of friends shouldn't be able to safely attend school, a parade, visit a loved one at a nursing home, participate in events at a community center, see a movie, play in a park. Unfortunately, HB 2803 will further allow murders access to the easiest weapon to kill innocent lives.

Additionally, this bill is unconstitutional. The United States Constitution includes the "Supremacy Clause" that states in Article VI, Clause 2, the federal law is "the supreme "Law of the Land" and will displace or preempt any conflicting state law. In *Retail Clerks v. Shermerhorn*, the United States Supreme Court has referred to this clause as the "ultimate touchstone" of statutory interpretation in the country. This bill instructs Kansas law enforcement to disregard federal law which is unconstitutional and will result in litigation, exhausting taxpayer's dollars and legislator's time.

As Kansas lawmakers continue to decrease gun regulations, our state has seen a 32% increase in gun related deaths and more school shootings have occurred in our state in the last five years than in the previous 40. This bill will make our communities worse, not better.

I implore you to show you care about the safety of your citizens and vote no on bill HB 2803.

Catherine Dolan
Overland Park, Kansas